

Saxilby with Ingleby Parish Council

Non-confidential

Biodiversity Corridors/‘No Mowing’

Report to: Planning and Development Committee 25-01

Report by: Clerk

Power/duty which decision falls under: Environment Act 2021

Which council objective(s) it falls under:

- Maintain and improve community facilities and amenities
- Protect and enhance our green spaces and street scene
- Preserve and enhance heritage assets, environmental assets and wildlife
- Improve the well-being of residents
- To foster public participation and engagement
- To recognise the climate and biodiversity emergency and it should be considered as the basis of all decision and policy making

Public Sector Equality Duty (*Consider how policies/decisions affect those protected under the Equality Act*)

The areas selected will be used to support conservation and biodiversity in-line with the environment act. Existing pathways will be maintained and areas used for sport and recreation.

Consideration on carbon reduction:

This supports the council's and parishes effort to reduce its carbon footprint, with the draft plan moving 16,500m² from being on the grass cutting cycle, to being managed to increase bio-diversity, habitats, and contribute to reducing carbon emissions in the area.

Consideration of risk management in relation to the proposal¹

It is impossible to list every risk faced by a local council. Risk, in the general sense, means the likelihood of an event happening, and the severity of the negative consequences. The insurance industry regards risk as representing loss or damage. Risk always involves uncertainty. When protecting a local council effectively, it is important to consider if risk is present in the following areas (SLCC AN241)[Tick]

Decision making
✓Finances
✓Property
✓Staff

Events
✓Legal
Inspections
Written/verbal ✓communication

Insurance

Does the report consider any new activity? If ‘Yes’, has a risk assessment including risk management proposals for consideration been included for consideration and adoption by the council? (Financial Regulation 17b)

Change of management of grass cutting.

¹Risk areas to consider - strategic/operational, likelihood/impact, add to risk register? Any contingency planning needed?

REPORT

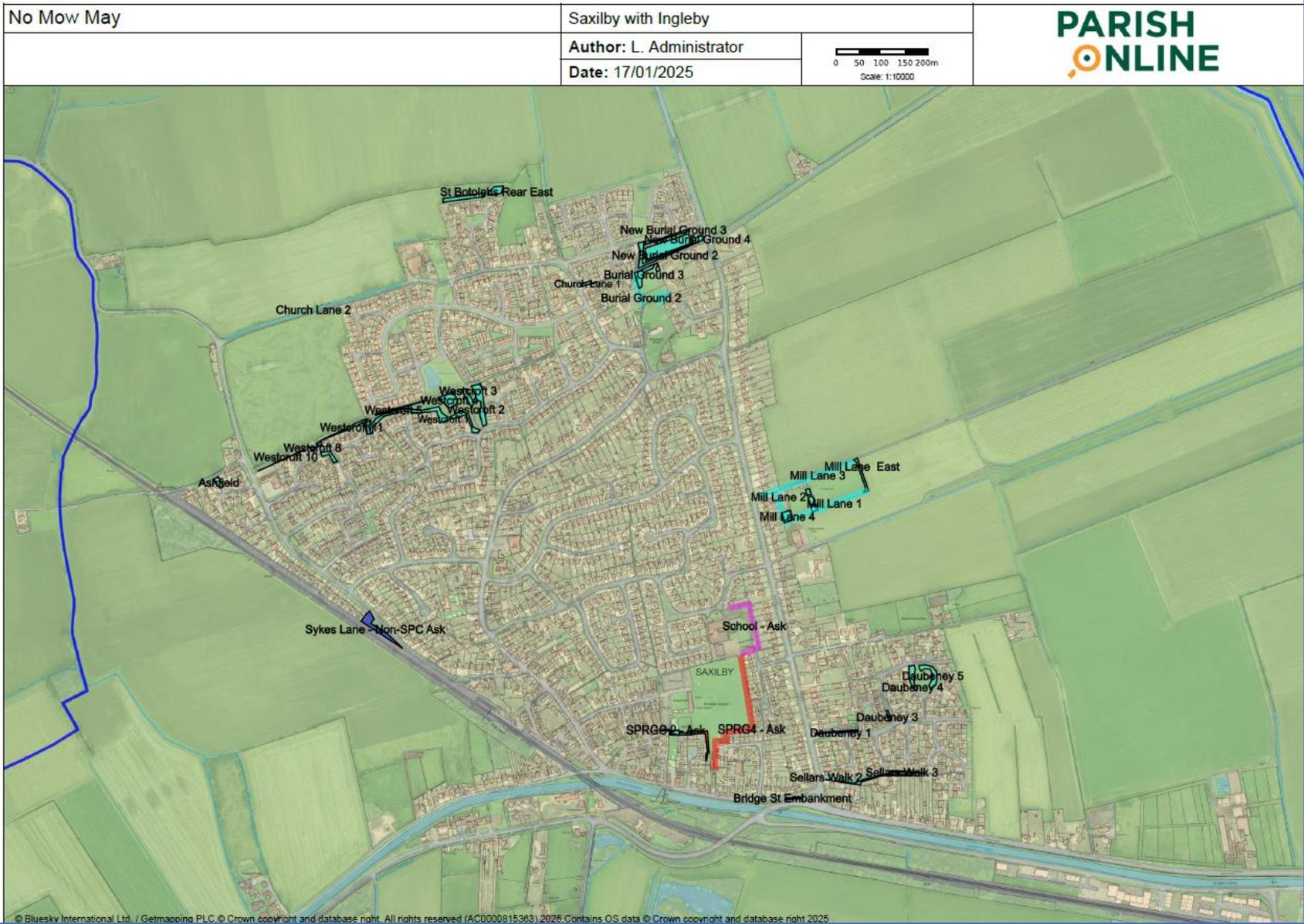
- Local councils have a duty under the Environment Act 2021 to conserve and enhance biodiversity. This is being taken into account in the Neighbourhood Development Plan policies.
- There are other practical opportunities within the parish. One of these is to reduce the grass cutting in certain appropriate areas to create biodiversity corridors/beelines.
- There are opportunities on the council's own land, on council managed land, residents' gardens and other local organisations within the parish.
- This report is a starting point on a scheme that can evolve and develop over time.
- The clerk with grounds manager have looked at areas in the village which are felt to be appropriate for ceasing the regular grass cutting. Draft maps have been drawn up as a starting point to discuss areas. Where areas could be left and not cut as often, maintenance strip will be cut alongside any paths/roads, as well as providing signage.
- Consultation is recommended on the areas to gain feedback and where appropriate the draft areas can be amended.
- For the scheme to be successful, the council should collaborate with residents and local organisations to see if they would like to create biodiversity corridors.
- Communication with residents on the changes is important, as well as sharing how residents can become involved too.
- The areas of land will still need management, such as at the end of the growing season. This would be guided by the Grounds Manager, and is expected to include strimming and potentially removing the cuttings in areas.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

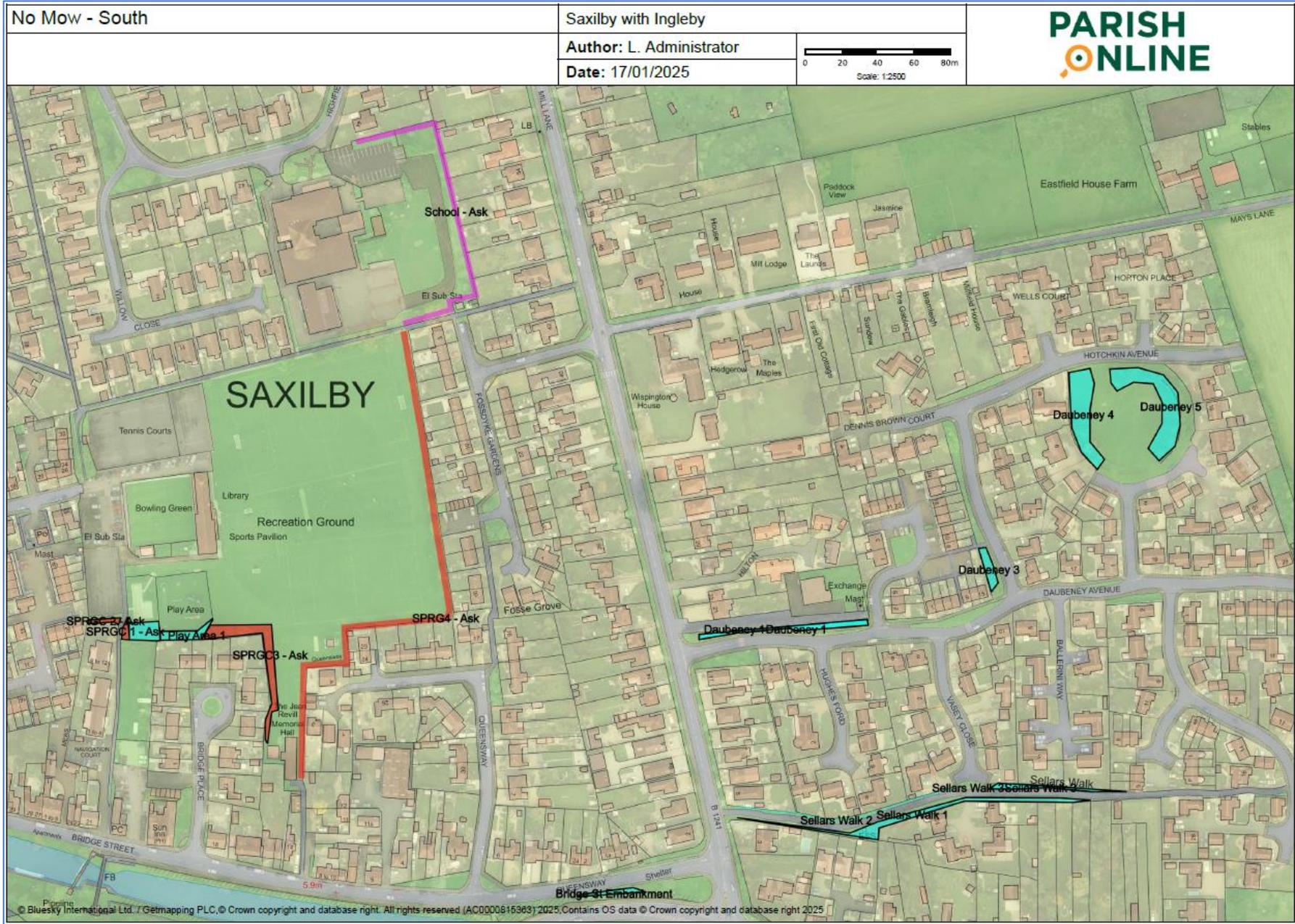
That Planning and Development Committee notes the report and agrees

1. Agree in principle to developing bio-diversity corridors and reducing grass cutting frequency during the growing season.
2. That the draft areas are shared with residents, staff, and organisations for feedback and development.
3. That other local landowners/managers are contacted such as the primary school, Saxilby Recreation Ground Charity, housing development management companies etc – to seek to start linking up pieces of land.
4. Bring back to February Planning and Development Committee.

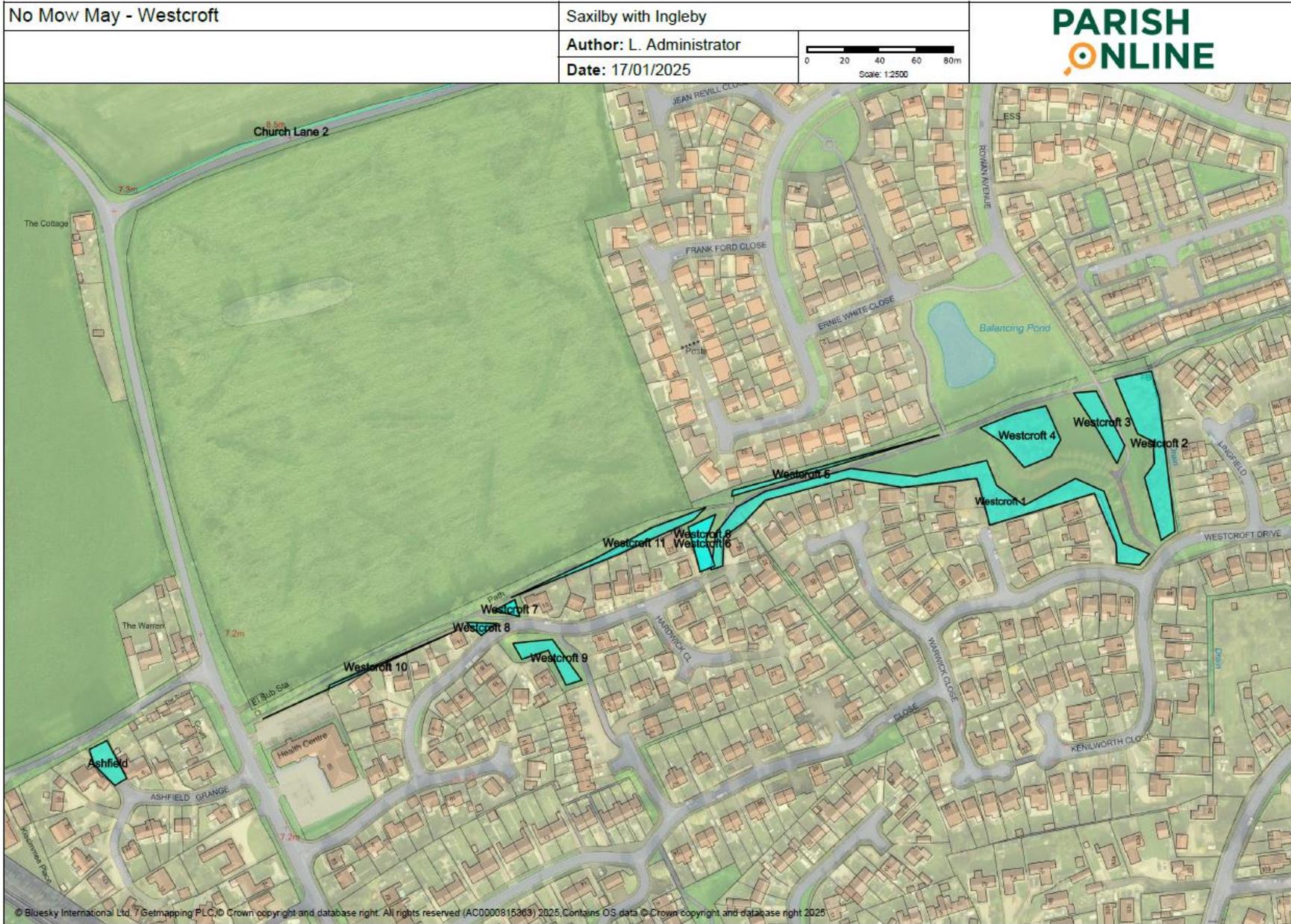
Appendix I:
I. Overall Map



2. South Map



3. Westcroft Map



Appendix 2: Proposed Area of No Mow

Area	Area (M²)
Daubeney 1	206
Daubeney 2	125
Daubeney 3	112
Daubeney 4	550
Daubeney 5	690
Sellars Walk 1	410
Sellars Walk 2	126
Sellars Walk 3	110
Queensway Embankment	70
Wheeled park 1	167
Play Area 1	135
Mill Lane 1	199
Mill Lane 2	117
Mill Lane 3	173
Mill Lane 4	409
Mill Lane 5	124
Mill Lane 6	193
Mill Lane 7	150
Mill Lane 8	374
Burial Ground 1	32
Burial Ground 2	71
Burial Ground 3	754
New Burial Ground 1	2418
New Burial Ground 2	899
New Burial Ground 3	410
New Burial Ground 4	277
Church Lane 1	147
Church Lane 2	415
St Botolphs West	714
St Botolphs East	422
Ashfield	252
Westcroft 1	2061
Westcroft 2	1144
Westcroft 3	60
Westcroft 4	830
Westcroft 5	177
Westcroft 6	194
Westcroft 7	61
Westcroft 8	55
Westcroft 9	307
Westcroft 10	353
Total Area	16,491